(a) whether it is a fact that Manisana Wage Board report for the new newspaper industry has been delayed, inordinately : and

(b) whether his Ministry would indicate a time frame for submitting the report ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) and (b) The Government constituted two Wage Boards for Working Journalists and Non-journalist newspaper and new-agency employees on 2-9-94 under the common Chairmanship of Justice Rajkumar Manisana Singh for fixing and revising the rates of wases of newspaper and news-agency employees. No time frame was fixed for submission of the report.

The Wage Board submitted tentative proposals to the Government on 21-12-99 which were published in the official Gazette on 30-12-99 inviting comments from the concerned parties and also to seek oral hearing, if desired, within 6 weeks. In response, 72 parties submitted comments and as many as 42 parties requested for oral hearing. Oral hearings on comments/objections in respect of tentative proposals were completed in three rounds i.e. February, 22—25, 2000, March 14—17, 2000 and March 27—31, 2000. Thereafter, the first meeting of the Wage Boards was held during 17th to 20th April, 2000 to finalise the report. The next meeting of the Wage Board has been fixed at Mumbai on 9-5-2000.

Meanwhile, the Indian Newspaper Society has filed a Writ Petition in Delhi High Court against tentative proposals. The matter is listed for hearing on 9-5-2000. The completion of the proceedings of the Wage Board will, thus, depend on the outcome of the Writ Petition. Under these circumstances, the Wage Boards have sought some more time to submit the final report.

National Policy to Abolish Child Labour

4200. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have formulated any national policy to abolish the child labour from different states of the Country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (d) Government has a National Policy on Child Labour which contains an action plan for dealing with the problem of Child Labour. It envisages :

—A legislative action plan.

—Focussing of general development programmes for benefiting children wherever possible; and

—Project-based action plans in areas of high concentration of child labour engaged in wage/quasi-wage employment.

Government is committed to the goal of eradication of child labour in all its forms. Considering the nature and magnitude of the problem, a gradual, progressive and sequential approach has been adopted to withdraw and rehabilitate child labourers.

Liquidation of Statutory Dues

4201. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE :

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether a group of Ministers was formed to expedite liquidation of statutory dues to the workers of CPSUs.

(b) if so, when was the same formed and the number of meetings held so far by the group;

(c) total statutory dues before the formation of the Committee;

(d) dues liquidated after the formation of the Committee; and

(e) names of the CPSUs, where the statutory dues are more than Rs. 10 crore ?